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## A WINDOW IN TIME FOR THE FIRST EVOLUTIONARY RADIATION

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The window in time between the last globally sterilizing event and the evidence for a complex procaryotic ecosystem is quite narrow, perhaps as small as 200 million years. We will present a heuristic model outlining the first evolutionary radiation that could have led from primordial vesicles to the universal ancestor. The concept of the universal ancestor will be developed in terms of contemporary molecular biology.